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THE OUTER LIMITS

THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN SAVE THE WORLD...

B5

A YOUNG BOY HELD CAPTIVE BY CREATURES FROM OUTER SPACE!

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UNITED ARTISTS

Test your Talent

Contest Prize: $595.00 Scholarship in Commercial Art

Draw your choice of any one of these heads. Draw it any size you want except like a tracing. Use pencil. Everyone who enters this contest gets a professional estimate of his talent without charge. Contest winner receives a complete art course — free training in advertising art, magazine illustrating, cartooning, or painting.

Try for this free art course from America's largest home study art school. Students are taught, individually, by professional artists. Illustrated art textbooks cover both basic and advanced training. Many former students of this school now earn upwards from $150 a week as commercial artists. Some earn $25,000 a year or even more, doing the kind of work they enjoy most.

Purpose of contest: to uncover hidden talent. So be sure to enter! Which of these heads would be the most fun to draw? Entries for this contest due by June 30. None can be returned. Our students and professional artists are not eligible. Contest winner notified. Start on your entry today.

Use 1 coupon, then pass this page on to a friend

1. AI/ART INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS
Studio 2025 • 500 So. 4th St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55415
Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____
Occupation_____ Age_____
Address_____ Apt._____
City_____ Zip Code_____
County_____ State_____

Accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the National Home Study Council.

2. AI/ART INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS
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THE MYSTERY MOON

THE OUTER LIMITS

SATELLITE CHART AND CONTROL CENTER USUALLY IS A CALM, METHODICAL PLACE, SET APART FROM THE NOISE AND CONFUSION OF EVERY DAY LIFE! ON THE HUGE WALL SPACE CHART, BLINKING LIGHTS INDICATE THE ORBITING POSITIONS OF OVER A HUNDRED AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN SATELLITES STILL CIRCLING THE EARTH! THE WORK IS PRECISE AND ROUTINE -- THE DAILY CHECKING OF MINUTE VARIATIONS IN THE MAN-MADE MOONS' COURSES! BUT TODAY, A CRY OF EXCITEMENT INTERRUPTS THE MACHINES' HUMMING SOUND AND SENDS PUZZLED EXPERTS TO ONE GIANT RADARSCOPE THAT FLASHES WITH ALARM...

LOOK!! THERE IT IS AGAIN! I DIDN'T CALL YOU ON THE FIRST PASS! I THOUGHT I READ THE 'SCOPE WRONG! BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THE SIGNAL! SOMETHING OUT THERE IS ORBITING EARTH--SOMETHING THAT NEITHER WE NOR THE RUSSIANS PUT THERE!

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TWO TECHNICIANS CHECK THE RADAR! A-OKAY! THE MYSTERIOUS BLIP IS REAL AND UNEXPLAINED...

BETTER CALL IN THE BIG BOSS!

WOULDN'T YOU KNOW THIS WOULD HAPPEN ON THE FIRST DAY OFF PROFESSOR BURKE HAS TAKEN IN WEEKS!

A PHONE RINGS IN A NEARBY HOME...

NO, MY FATHER ISN'T HOME! I CAN GET HIM IF IT'S IMPORTANT--

IT IS *URGENT!*

JIM BURKE VAULTS ONTO HIS BIKE AND PEDALS SWIFTLY TO A STREAM A FEW MILES FROM HOME...

DAD! DAD, THE BASE CALLED! THEY SAID SOMETHING *URGENT* IS UP!

WELL, I WASN'T EVEN GETTING A NIBBLE HERE, JIM! WANT TO COME ALONG WITH ME?

AN HOUR LATER, PROFESSOR BURKE CHECKS THE GIANT SCOPE! ITS PROBING BEAM SCOURS SPACE ABOVE AND FROM SOME UNKNOWN OBJECT THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILES ABOVE THE EARTH, AN ECHOING PING COMES BACK...

IT IS ABOUT THE SIZE OF OUR TWO-MAN GEMINI SATELLITE! IT IS ON A REGULAR ORBITAL PATH THAT SEEMS TO INDICATE IT WAS *PASSING* EARTH, WHEN IT WAS PULLED INTO ORBIT! BUT *WHO* PUT IT THERE?

ON PROFESSOR BURKE'S ORDERS, A HIGH-POWERED TELEPHOTO LENSE CAMERA IS LOCKED INTO THE STRANGE SATELLITE'S ORBIT, CLICKING A HUNDRED PICTURES AS THE UNEXPLAINED CIRCLER OF EARTH MAKES ANOTHER PASS OVER THE UNITED STATES...

QUICKLY, THE PHOTOS ARE DEVELOPED AND THE BEST ONE IS HANDED TO PROFESSOR BURKE! HIS EXPERIENCED EYE STUDIES THE ALIEN OBJECT...

IT ISN'T ONE OF OURS! ASK THE RUSSIANS IF THEY SENT ONE UP!

HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD, IN A SATELLITE TRACKING STATION NEAR MOSCOW, TOP RUSSIAN MISSILE EXPERTS ARE GIVEN THE MESSAGE...

SIGNAL BURKE THAT WE WERE ABOUT TO ASK ***HIM*** IF AMERICA HAD LAUNCHED THE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT WE PICKED UP ON OUR RADARSCOPE! IT ***ISN'T*** OURS!

SURPRISED, THE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS REALIZE THAT SINCE NO OTHER COUNTRY IS CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING SUCH A SATELLITE, THERE IS ONLY ONE REMAINING ANSWER...

IT CAME FROM SOMEWHERE IN ***OUTER SPACE!*** WE MUST BRING IT DOWN TO EARTH SO WE CAN STUDY THE SATELLITE! THAT MEANS LAUNCHING A CAPTOR-SATELLITE OF OUR OWN!

A SPECIAL MISSILE IS PUT ON THE PAD, ITS ONE OBJECTIVE--CAPTURE THE ALIEN CRAFT...

ALL RIGHT, JIM-- *LAUNCH!*

AT JIM'S TOUCH, THERE IS A BURST OF POWER AS THE SLIM BIRD HURTLES SKYWARD FROM ITS PAD...

WHOOSH!

INSTANTANEOUSLY, RADIO REPORTS COME BACK, GIVING GIANT COMPUTERS THE MISSILE'S CALCULATED TRAJECTORY...

PERFECT! ON COURSE-- ON TIME! IT SHOULD PASS WITHIN GRAPPLING RANGE OF THE ALIEN SATELLITE!

AT OVER 17,000 MILES AN HOUR, THE SPECIAL MISSILE CLAWS ITS WAY SPACE-WARD, BURSTING OUT OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE INTO THE INKY SKY BEYOND. THEN, ON RADIO SIGNALS, GRAPPLING LINES ARE FLUNG OUT AS THE MISSILE NEARS...

NOW, EVERY SECOND IS VITAL! CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE MISSILE'S INTERCEPTING COURSE, PROFESSOR BURKE KEEPS HIS HAND ON A CONTROL LEVER, TIGHTENING HIS GRIP AND THEN, HE TUGS...

FAR BEYOND EARTH ELECTRIC SWITCHES OBEY THE ORDER FROM BELOW! ELECTRO-MAGNETIC INDICATORS PULSE AND SUDDENLY, THE FOUR CLAMPS ARE DRAWN TO THE PASSING ALIEN OBJECT, SLAPPING ON WITH FIRM MAGNETIZED FORCE...

THE RETRO-ROCKET CONTROL IS PUSHED! THE MISSILE FLARES, SWINGING BACK FOR EARTH! THE SUDDEN GIANT PROPULSIVE FORCE YANKS THE SATELLITE FROM ORBIT...

THE CAPTOR AND CAPTIVE ARE THEN GUIDED DOWN TO MAKE A WATERY LANDING, SPLASHING IN -- ON TARGET...

GET THE RETRIEVER GEAR AT WORK AT ONCE!

A POWERFUL BOAT CLEAVES ITS WAY ACROSS THE WATER! THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CRANE QUICKLY CLAMPS ONTO THE ALIEN CRAFT AND THE BOAT CUTS BACK FOR SHORE...

WE'VE GOT THE BABY! SHE DIDN'T GET MORE THAN HER FEET WET!

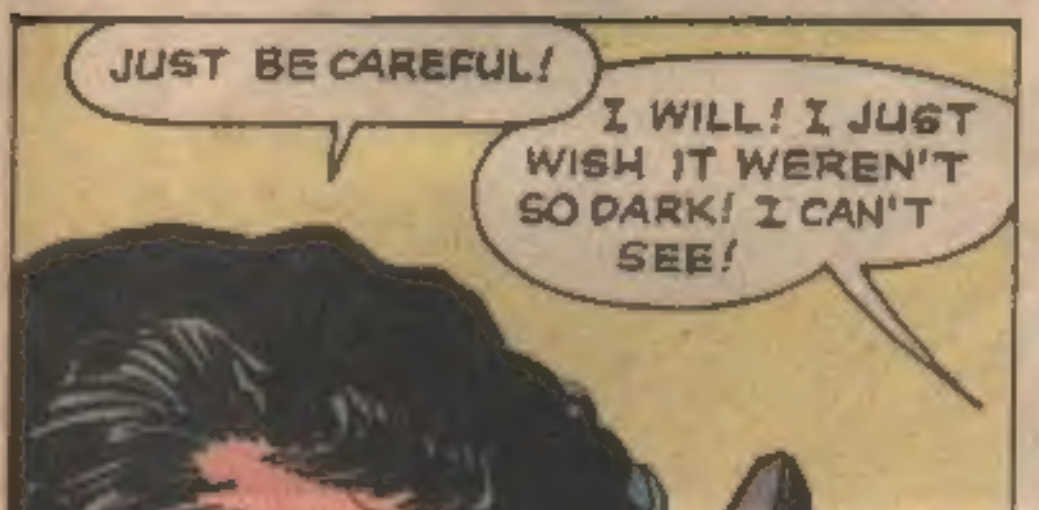
THEN THE ALIEN OBJECT IS PUT DOWN ON LAND. THE SCIENTISTS MAKE A CURSORY STUDY! NO HARMFUL BACTERIA OR UNIDENTIFIED ORGANISM SEEMS TO CLING TO THE CRAFT'S EXTERIOR! A CREW BEGINS TO OPEN THE HATCH...

THE METAL IS *NOT* FROM ANY ALLOY ON EARTH! I WONDER WHAT WE'LL FIND INSIDE, JIM!

WHAT-- OR *WHO?*

THE HATCH DROPS TO THE GROUND! INSIDE THE CRAFT, SILENCE AND DARKNESS! A GASOMETER IS PUSHED INTO THE INTERIOR...

CAREFULLY, THE SCIENTIST INSERTS HIS FEET, BUT THEN...



DOWN JIM BURKE CRAWLS INTO THE UNKNOWN INTERIOR OF THE UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT...

JIM BURKE BLINKS! AS HIS EYES ADJUST TO THE CABIN'S SHADOWY INTERIOR, AMAZING FORMS BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE! MOTIONLESS, THEY LIE ON THEIR COUCHES, HUMAN-SHAPED, YET INHUMAN LOOKING, ALIEN CREATURES FROM ANOTHER WORLD...

BUT ARE THEY STILL *ALIVE?*

STEELING HIMSELF, JIM BURKE REACHES OUT TO TOUCH ONE OF THE ALIENS! THEN, HE FINDS THE SKIN IS SOFT AND WARM...

I-IT COULD MEAN THAT HE STILL *IS* ALIVE!

DAD! THREE HUMAN-LIKE CREATURES ARE INSIDE! BUT THEY AREN'T MOVING! GIVE ME A BLANKET AND I'LL ROLL THEM ONTO IT SO YOU CAN PULL THEM OUT!

GOOD IDEA, JIM! LET'S SEE WHAT THEY'RE LIKE AND IF WE CAN HELP THEM!

ONE BY ONE THE STARTLING CREATURES ARE TAKEN FROM THEIR SHIP AND BROUGHT INTO THE LIGHT OF EARTH'S DAY...

DO YOU THINK OUR DOCTORS HERE CAN BRING THEM AROUND, DAD?

OUR ATMOSPHERE SHOULDN'T BE HARMFUL TO THEM! ACCORDING TO MY READINGS, THEIR SHIP'S INTERIOR MEANS THEIR WORLD IS ON AN OXYGEN-CARBON CYCLE, TOO!

QUICKLY, THE ALIENS ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE BASE'S SURGERY! THERE, A TEAM OF SPECIALISTS BEGINS TO STUDY THEM...

METABOLISM IS BASICALLY THE SAME AS OURS!

BLOOD-FLUID COMPOSITION IS CLOSE ENOUGH, TOO!

THE ELECTRO-ENCEPHALOGRAM INDICATES A BRAIN WAVE PATTERN SIMILIAR TO OURS!

FROM THE READINGS, I SUGGEST THE PULSE RATE CAN BE RAISED TO TRY TO RESTORE CONSCIOUSNESS!

BY MEDICATION ..OR SHOCK?

WE'LL TRY AN INSULIN DERIVATIVE!

AND WHEN THEY COME TO-- THEN WHAT?

CAUTIOUSLY, THE DOCTORS INJECT THE FLUID! THEN, THEY CHECK THE VITAL SIGNS...

DAD, DO YOU THINK *OUR* KIND OF MEDICINE COULD... KILL THEM?

THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO COME AROUND ON THEIR OWN! LET'S HOPE FOR THE BEST!

TWO SILENT MINUTES GRIMLY PASS, THEN A NURSE EYES A NEEDLE ON AN ULTRA-SENSITIVE DIAL...

PULSATIONS *INCREASING!*

THEN, THE BODY OF THE ALIEN TREMBLES! ALMOST IMPERCEPTIVELY AT FIRST, BUT A MOMENT LATER...

HE'S SHAKING! HE'S COMING AROUND!

XERL TO EARTHLINGS! WE HAVE MADE CONTACT! OUR MISSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED NOW!

YES, NOW OUR *MISSION* WILL NOT FAIL!

BUT WHAT *IS* YOUR MISSION?

THEN, THE THIN ALIEN VOICE OF XERL RECOUNTS THE ASTOUNDING TALE OF THEIR ARRIVAL IN ORBIT AROUND EARTH! AT FIRST, THEY HAD LEFT THEIR PLANET, THE THIRD BODY OF A SOLAR SYSTEM IN OUR NEAREST NEIGHBORING GALAXY-- DESTINATION EARTH! BUT AS THEIR CRAFT SLOWED TO CIRCLE AND LAND, A TINY METEOR STRUCK A GLANCING BLOW...

RETRO-STEERING GONE!

DIRECTIONAL POWER--GONE!

THE OUTER LIMITS

IN VAIN THEY STRUGGLED! THEIR CRAFT WAS HELD, LOCKED IN AN ORBITAL PATH! THEN A SECOND METEOR'S IMPACT HAD BROKEN THEIR STABILIZER, FLINGING THEM HARD AND BLACKING THEM OUT...

BUT YOU HAVE HELPED US RECOVER! NOW WE CAN COMPLETE OUR MISSION--THE PEACEFUL STUDY OF YOUR PLANET!

I AM CREW CAPTAIN OF OUR TRANS-GALACTIC SHIP! THESE ARE MIKL AND DWID!

HELLO! --AND THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN SAY! FRANKLY, WE'RE ALL TOO STARTLED AT THIS FANTASTIC EVENT!

JIM, I WANT **YOU** TO BE THEIR OFFICIAL GUIDE HERE! YOU'RE CLOSEST TO THEIR SIZE AND THEY'LL FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH YOU!

AN EXCITED JIM BURKE LEADS THE ALIENS THROUGH THE BASE, SHOWING THEM THE SATELLITE SPOTTER, WHICH TURNED UP THEIR PUZZLING ORBITAL BLIP...

WHEN THEY SAW YOUR SHIP'S COURSE ON THERE, THEY KNEW IT WAS **NOT** ONE OF OUR SATELLITES!

MOST FASCINATING! AND DO YOU HAVE COMPUTERS HERE--OR IS THAT SOMETHING ONLY DEVELOPED IN OUR CULTURE?

WITH A TRIUMPHANT SMILE, JIM LEADS THEM TO THE HUGE ROOM OF WHIRRING MACHINES...

AH! DIGITAL COMPUTERS! WE COULD WORK OUT MUTUAL PROBLEMS...

BUT RIGHT NOW, WE ARE TIRED! THE TENSION HAS EXHAUSTED US! COME TO THE SHIP WITH US AND LET US REPAY YOUR TOUR HERE! THEN, WE WILL REST AND BE FRESH FOR MEETING YOUR FATHER'S COMMITTEE OF SCIENTISTS TOMORROW!

YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW ME ME YOUR SHIP? THAT'S NEAT!

EAGERLY, JIM SLIDES INTO THE NOW ILLUMINATED INTERIOR OF THE ALIEN CRAFT! QUICKLY, THE LEADER XERL POINTS TO THE PANEL OF CONFUSING CONTROLS...

MAGNETIC-FLUX ADJUSTER! IMPELLER BEAM--BUT WE WILL EXPLAIN THESE IN DETAIL TO THE COMMITTEE!

FUNNY, I DON'T KNOW WHY--BUT I GET THE FEELING THIS CONTROL CHAMBER IS *SMALLER* THAN IT SHOULD BE!

BUT WHILE JIM AND EXCITED SCIENTISTS AT THE BASE SLEEP, OFF THE ALASKAN COAST GRIM TRAGEDY STRIKES! SUDDENLY, THE SEA LEDGE SHIFTS BENEATH A GIANT TOWERING CLIFF, PLUNGING IT INTO THE FREEZING WATERS...

WITHIN HOURS, THE SHIFTING OF THE SEA FLOOR OFF ALASKA SENDS A HUGE TIDAL WAVE SWARMING MENACINGLY AT THE NORTHERN COAST OF HAWAII...

GET TO HIGH GROUND! *HURRY!*

BUT MY HOME--

YOU CAN'T SAVE IT! JUST SAVE YOURSELF! *RUN!*

NEXT MORNING, THE STARTLING LANDING OF ALIEN BEINGS IS PUSHED OFF THE FRONT PAGE BY AN EARTHLY DISASTER...

GOSH! JUST LISTEN TO WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PACIFIC, DAD--

WAIT TILL I ANSWER THE PHONE, JIM! IT'S THE BASE'S HOT LINE!

SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU THIS EARLY, PROFESSOR BURKE, BUT ACCORDING TO HALF A DOZEN REPORTS AND INSTRUMENT CHECKS--THE EARTH'S ROTATION HAS BEEN *CHANGED!*

IMPOSSIBLE! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER! IT'S PROBABLY A RESULT OF SEISMOGRAPHIC DISTORTION CAUSED BY THE PACIFIC TREMOR!

SWIFTLY, PROFESSOR BURKE DRIVES TO THE BASE! UP THE RAMP HE RUSHES AND WITH HIS SON AT HIS SIDE, HE STUDIES THE READINGS...

YOU'RE *RIGHT!* IF OUR GAUGES ARE WORKING, THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL TILT OFF AXIS OF .00002!

GEE, DAD, CAN THAT TINY A VARIATION HAVE ANY REAL SIGNIFICANCE?

AND ON THE EASTERN COAST, AS IF TO ANSWER JIM'S QUESTION, THE TOWERING EMPIRE STATE BUILDING BEGINS TO TREMBLE SLIGHTLY...

LOOK! SEE FOR YOURSELF-IT'S SWINGING LIKE A PENDULUM!

STUNNED, THE PEOPLE WATCH WITH SICKENING FASCINATION AS THE GIANT BUILDING SWAYS MORE AND MORE! THEN, AS PIECES OF THE STEEP STRUCTURE HURTLE TO THE STREET BELOW, PANIC GRIPS THE VIEWERS...

RUN!

IT'LL CRUSH US ALL! HELP!!

THEN, AS THE NATION VIEWS THE FANTASTIC SIGHT ON TELEVISION...

NO, THIS IS **NOT** A FILM! THIS IS **ACTUALLY HAPPENING!**

IF THE EARTH **IS** OFF ITS AXIS THAT MUCH, THIS WON'T BE THE LAST EVENT LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN!

WHAT ELSE COULD HAPPEN, DAD? I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH A SMALL CHANGE--

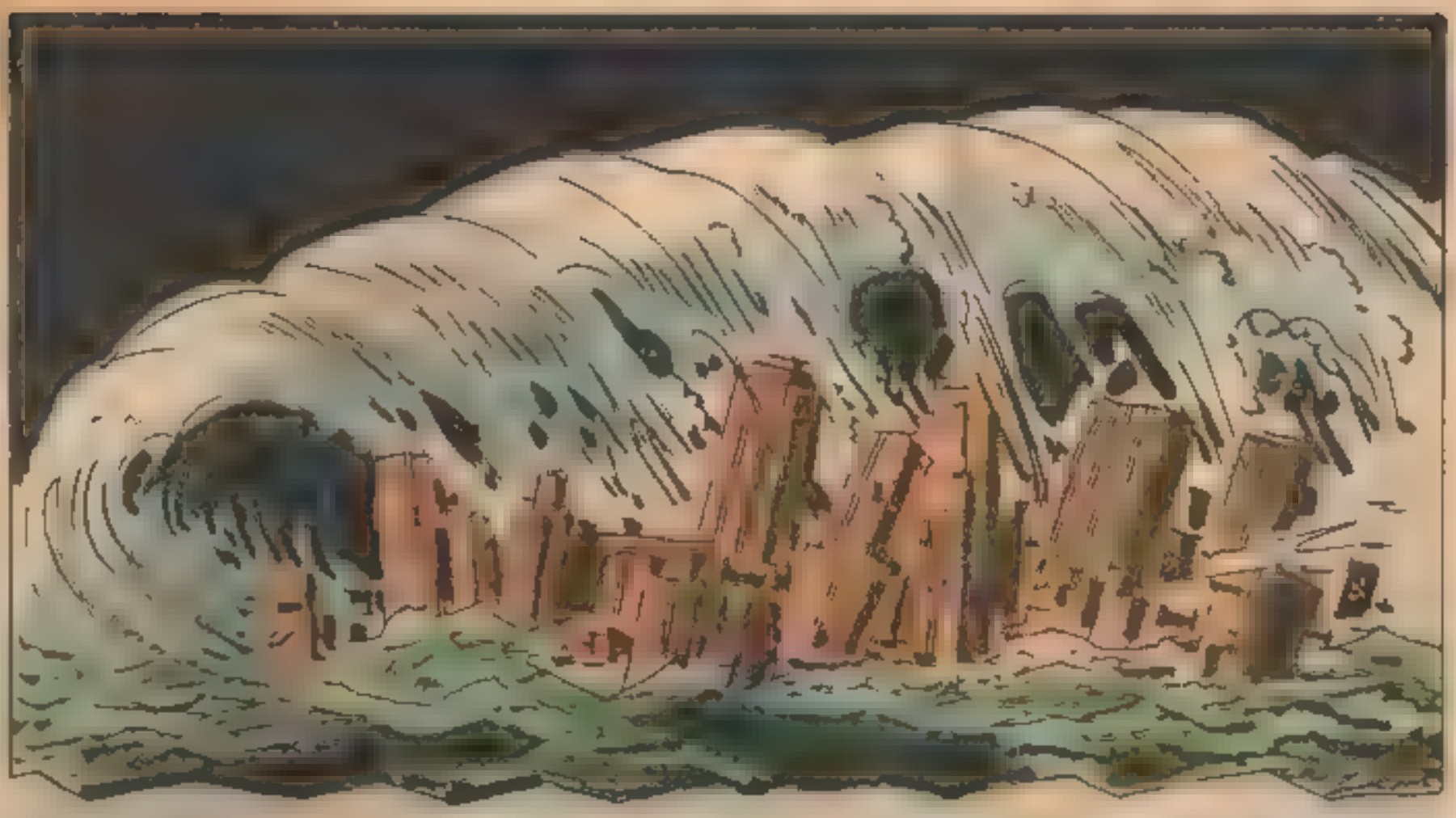
IT MAY BE SMALL NOW, BUT THE EARTH **ISN'T** SMOOTH LIKE THAT GLOBE! THE SURFACE IS ROUGH AND UNEVEN! AS WE SPIN THROUGH SPACE, THERE IS A SLIGHT VARIATION IN OUR AXIS, BUT GRAVITATIONAL FORCES MORE THAN COUNTER-BALANCE THIS WITHIN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM! BUT LET THE TILT OF OUR AXIS INCREASE THIS MUCH MORE...

..AND OUR ROTATION WILL ACCELERATE THE ANGLE OF OUR VARIATION! EACH TURN OF THE EARTH WILL INCREASE THE AXIAL TILT, LIKE A TOP WHEN IT SLOWS DOWN AND STARTS TO FALL OFF ITS PERPENDICULAR AXIS.. "

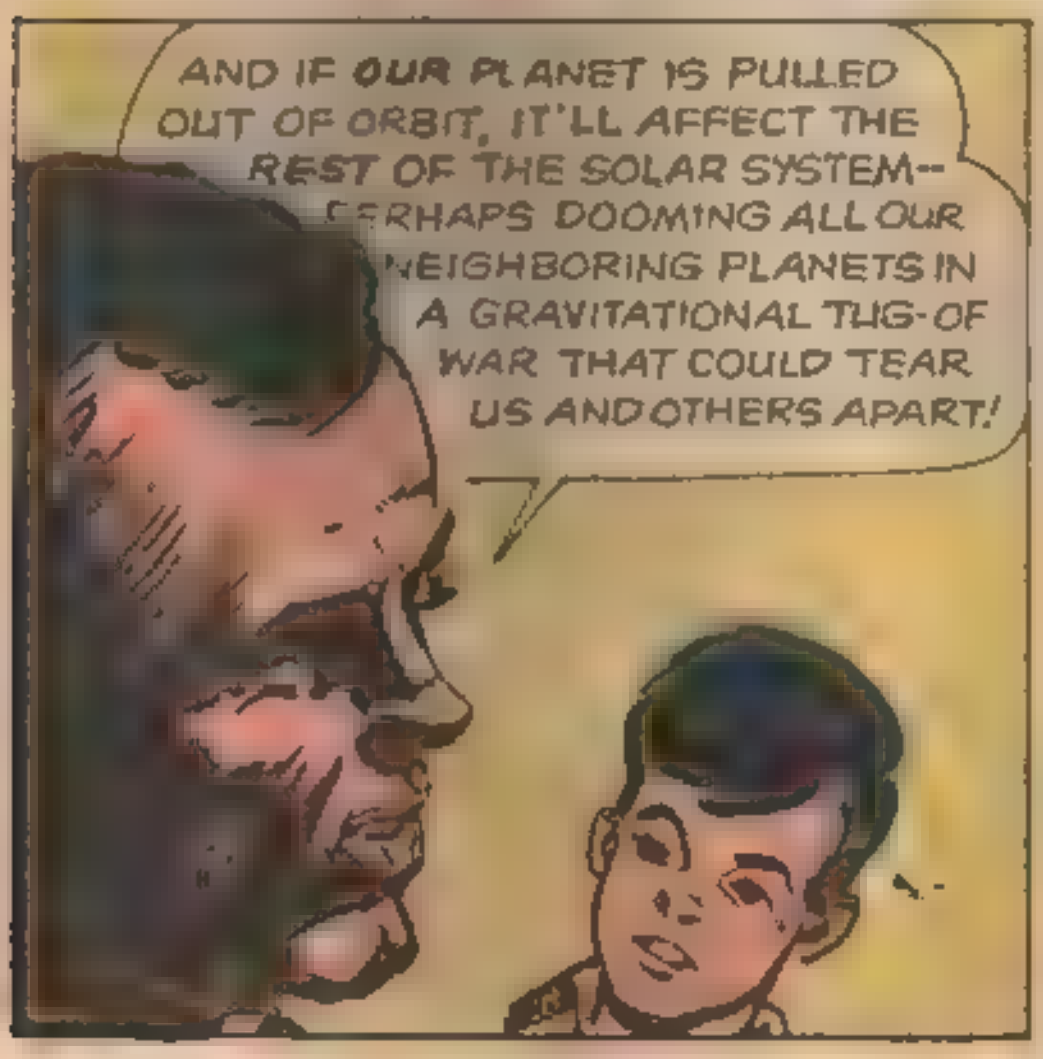
"SOME PARTS OF THE EARTH WILL SUDDENLY BE TURNED TOWARD A RELENTLESSLY HOT SUN! WATER WILL EVAPORATE! MAN AND BEAST WILL BE THREATENED BY DEATH FROM THIRST..."

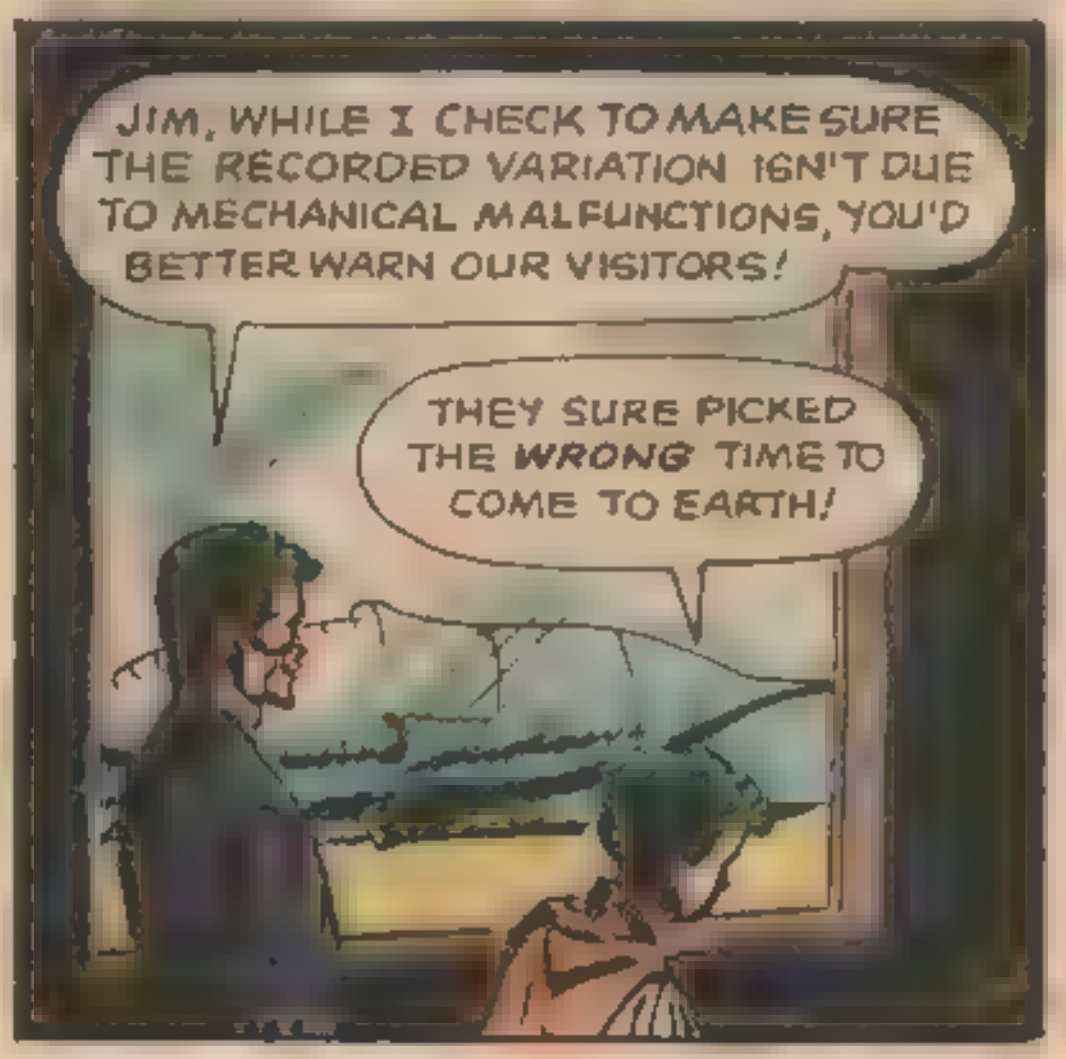
"WHILE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE, TEMPERATURES WILL DROP BELOW FREEZING AND AS WE CEASE TO ROTATE, THE LAND WILL BECOME AN ICY GRAVEYARD... "

"THE POLAR CAP WILL BEGIN TO MELT! THE SEA LEVEL WILL RISE SEVERAL FEET, AND THE LOW LYING COASTAL CITIES WILL BECOME SWAMPED BY THE RISING SEAS .."



"THE CHANGE IN OUR AXIS WILL THROW US OFF OUR ORBIT! THAT IN TURN WILL CAUSE TREMENDOUS UPHEAVALS ON LAND! VOLCANOS, LONG INACTIVE, WILL SPEW MOLTEN LAVA SKYWARD! GREAT TREMORS WILL ROCK THE WHOLE GLOBE..."


AND IF OUR PLANET IS PULLED OUT OF ORBIT, IT'LL AFFECT THE REST OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM-- PERHAPS DOOMING ALL OUR NEIGHBORING PLANETS IN A GRAVITATIONAL TUG-OF WAR THAT COULD TEAR US AND OTHERS APART!


JIM, WHILE I CHECK TO MAKE SURE THE RECORDED VARIATION ISN'T DUE TO MECHANICAL MALFUNCTIONS, YOU'D BETTER WARN OUR VISITORS!
THEY SURE PICKED THE WRONG TIME TO COME TO EARTH!

QUICKLY, JIM BURKE SLIPS THROUGH THE SMALL HATCH! THEN, HE LOOKS PUZZLED...

NO ONE'S HERE! THAT'S FUNNY! WE'D HAVE SEEN THEM LEAV-ING-- FROM DAD'S OFFICE WINDOW!

WHERE COULD THEY BE?

JIM TURNS TO LEAVE THE CRAFT, WHEN...

VOICES! YES, I HEAR VOICES-- BUT THEY SEEM TO BE COMING FROM BEHIND THE CABIN WALL!

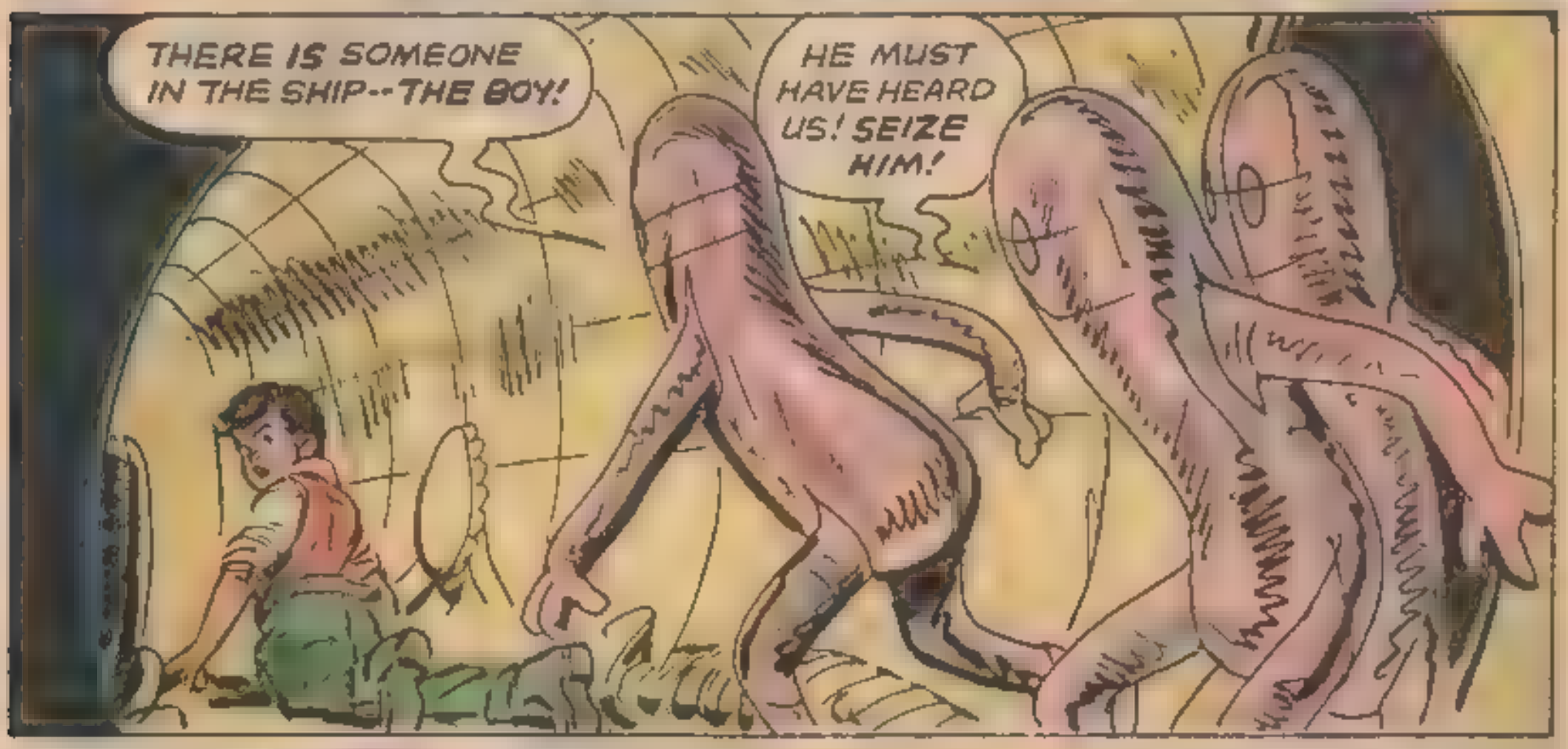
AXIAL ACCELERATOR BEAM-- RAISE TWO MILI-VIBRATIONS!

BEAM RAISED AS DIRECTED!

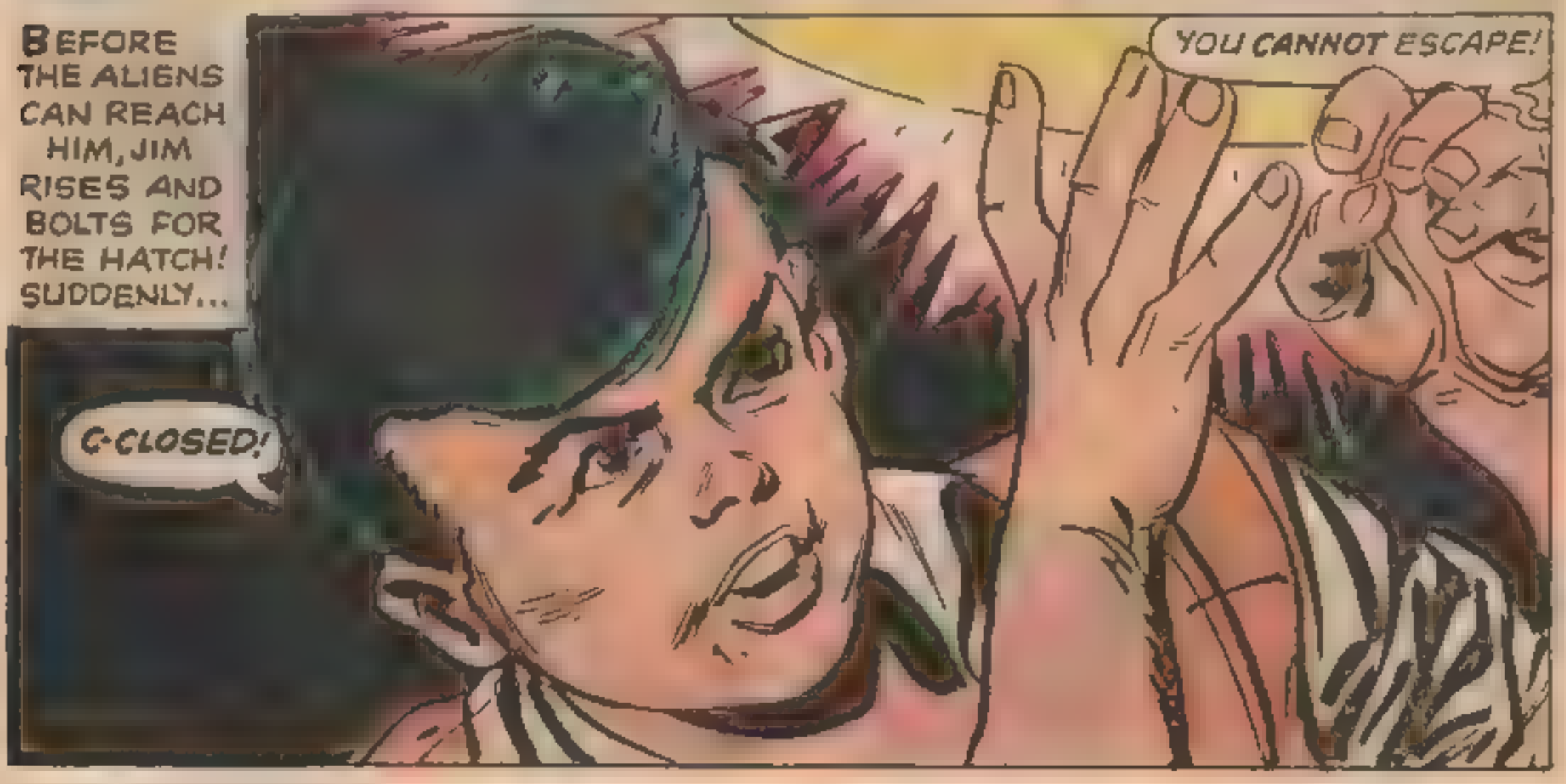
HAVE WE ANY NEW RESULTS OF OUR AXIAL MOVEMENT?

NO, XERL! NOT SINCE INCREASING THE AXIAL VARIATION TOPPLED THEIR TALL-EST BUILDING! BUT WE SHOULD EXPECT NEW RESULTS SOON!

SHOCKED BY WHAT HE OVERHEARS, JIM BURKE TURNS TO LEAVE THE CABIN AND ALERT HIS FATHER! BUT AS HE HURRIES FOR THE HATCH...



BEFORE THE ALIENS CAN REACH HIM, JIM RISES AND BOLTS FOR THE HATCH! SUDDENLY...



LET ME GO! YOU CAN'T DESTROY THE WORLD!

THEN, HE HEARD!

VALIANTLY, BUT VAINLY, JIM BURKE STRUGGLES TO BREAK FREE! BUT ALIEN HANDS FORCE HIM DOWN...

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? DIDN'T WE **SAVE** YOUR LIVES BY BRINGING YOU DOWN?

HARDLY! IT WAS A DELIBERATE TRICK TO HAVE YOU BRING US DOWN! BY LETTING YOU SEEMINGLY RESCUE US, WE WERE CERTAIN YOU WOULD NEVER SUSPECT OUR REAL INTENTIONS!

WHAT **ARE** YOU TRYING TO DO?

OUR PLANET IS AT WAR WITH ANOTHER PLANET IN THE GALAXY ACROSS YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM! BY **DESTROYING** YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM, WE WILL SHOW THEM THE FOLLY OF ATTACKING US--AND SURRENDER!

BUT HOW CAN YOU KILL MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF US TO DO THIS?

WHAT IS A RACE OF ALIENS LIKE YOU TO US? GRAINS OF SPACE DUST! TOOLS TO BE USED FOR OUR SUPERIOR CAUSE! THAT IS WHY **YOU** WILL HELP US TURN YOUR PLANET FROM ITS AXIS TILL IT TEARS APART THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!

THE OUTER LIMITS

INTO THE BASE, MORE AND MORE WORLDWIDE REPORTS COME! EVERY STORY IS GRIMLY THE SAME--SOME STARTLING NEW DISASTER HAS STRUCK! RAPID TEMPERATURE CHANGES ARE RECORDED! GROUND TREMORS ARE UNIVERSAL! INACTIVE VOLCANOS SUDDENLY ERUPT! TALL BUILDINGS TREMBLE AND FALL, WHILE OUTSIDE THE BASE, PROFESSOR BURKE STARES AT THE LAUNCHING PAD...

IF CONDITIONS DON'T CHANGE, THAT MISSILE WILL BE THROWN DOWN! I'LL HAVE TO ORDER THE GANTRY REINFORCED!

BUT WHY IS JIM AWAY SO LONG?

INSIDE THE ALIEN SHIP, JIM FACES HIS ALIEN CAPTORS...

WE HAVE DETERMINED THE AXIAL VARIATION FOR YOUR PLANET AND OUR OSCILLATOR HAS **INCREASED** THE VARIATION IN THE SAME RHYTHM! IT IS LIKE PUSHING A SWING TILL IT GOES FASTER AND FASTER! BUT FOR THE FINAL ENERGY QUOTIENT, WE NEED BETTER **CALCULATORS!** LEAD US TO YOUR MOST ADVANCED ONES, NOT THE ONES WE SAW YESTERDAY!

NO! I WON'T HELP!

ENOUGH! GIVE HIM THE SLAVE GAS!

AN ALIEN HAND SWEEPS UP AND FROM A TINY COMPRESSOR, A STRANGE, SICKLY-SWEET SMELLING GAS PUFFS OUT ABOUT JIM...

OOOH..

POOF!

NOW--YOUR MOST ADVANCED COMPUTERS! LEAD US TO THEM!

THIS WAY-- FOLLOW ME!

BUT GAZING DOWN FROM HIS WINDOW, PROFESSOR BURKE HAS A FATHER'S SENSE OF ALARM...

I DON'T LIKE THE GLAZED WAY JIM LOOKS! SOMETHING'S WRONG!

THIS IS PROFESSOR BURKE! I WANT SECURITY GUARDS TO CHECK OUT THE ALIENS BEFORE THEY ENTER THE BASE!

RIGHT, SIR!

BUT XERL ALERTLY NOTICES THE SUDDEN ACTIVITY BY THE ENTRANCE, AS ARMED GUARDS RUSH UP...

XERL TO SLAVE-WARRIOR SHIP! LAND AND ADVANCE!

OUT OF THE SKY A STRANGE SHIP SWIFTLY DESCENDS! BEFORE THE RADAR WARNING CAN BE TRANSFERED TO SECURITY FORCES, THE ALIEN CRAFT HAS LANDED...

THE BOY WILL LEAD US TO THE COMPUTERS! CLEAR THE WAY!

THE SECURITY GUARDS RUSH FROM THE BUILDING, BUT BEFORE THEY CAN ACT, THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH FROM ALIEN WEAPONS...

BZZZT!

THE PARALYSIS RAY WILL KEEP THEM THAT WAY LONG ENOUGH TO COMPLETE OUR WORK HERE AND DOOM THEIR PLANET AND SOLAR SYSTEM

XERL BARKS AN ORDER AND ONCE MORE, JIM ADVANCES TO THE BUILDING! EAGERLY, HE LEADS THE WAY.

THE ADVANCED ELECTRON-CALCULATOR IS THIS WAY...

FINE! WITH ITS HELP WE CAN COMPUTE THE FINAL OSCILLATION PATTERN TO SET ON OUR CONTROLS!

AS THEY PASS DOWN THE HALL, THE RECEPTION ROOM TELEVISION BLARES ON...

THESE ARE THE LATEST FILMS ON TAPE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY, UNEXPLAINED EVENTS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE! OFF THE PACIFIC COAST, THESE VOLCANOS HAVE SUDDENLY PUSHED UP OUT OF THE SEA!

...WHILE IN FLORIDA, THIS IS AN ACTUAL, **LIVE** SHOT OF **SNOW** FALLING HEAVILY IN MIAMI BEACH!

XERL, IF THE **COLD** REACHES **US** HERE!

DO NOT WORRY! OUR MISSION WILL BE COMPLETED LONG BEFORE THE COLD CAN REACH AND FREEZE US!

THEN, SLOWLY, AS THEY GO ON, JIM'S EYES LOSE THEIR GLAZED LOOK...

THERE! THE CALCULATORS WE NEED! HOW DO WE REACH THEM?

THIS WAY!

WHY DO WE ENTER THIS CHAMBER?

IT IS THE STERILIZING ROOM! THE COMPUTERS ARE SENSITIVE TO DUST AND WE MUST BE CLEANED BY SONIC WAVES!

HOW LONG...?

LESS THAN A MINUTE! BUT THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF DUST COULD THROW OFF THE CALCULATORS!

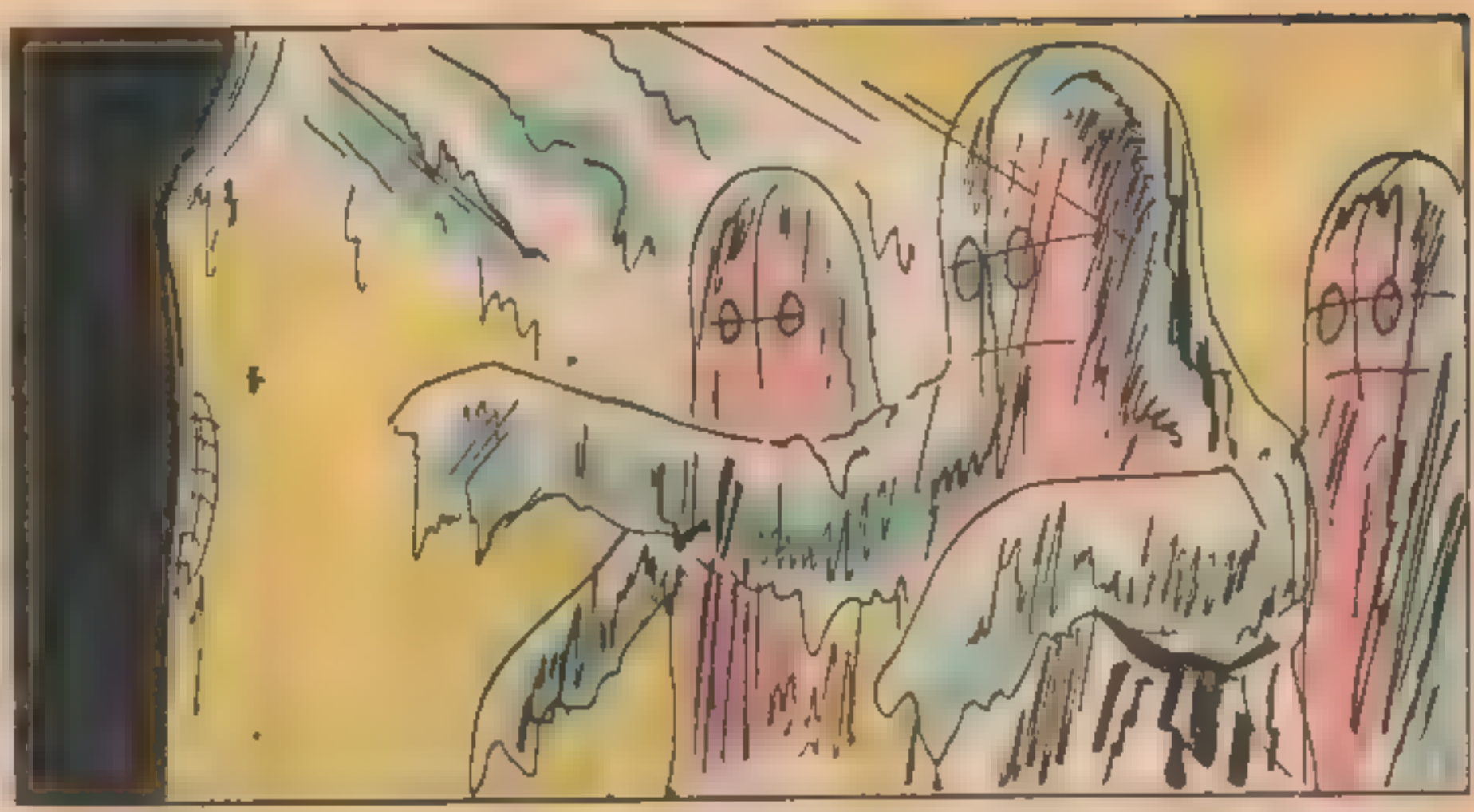
JIM BURKE'S FINGERS TURN THE DIAL HARD! INTO THE SMALL, CLOSED CHAMBER A BLAST OF FREEZING AIR RUSHES...

XERL, IT IS **ICY!**

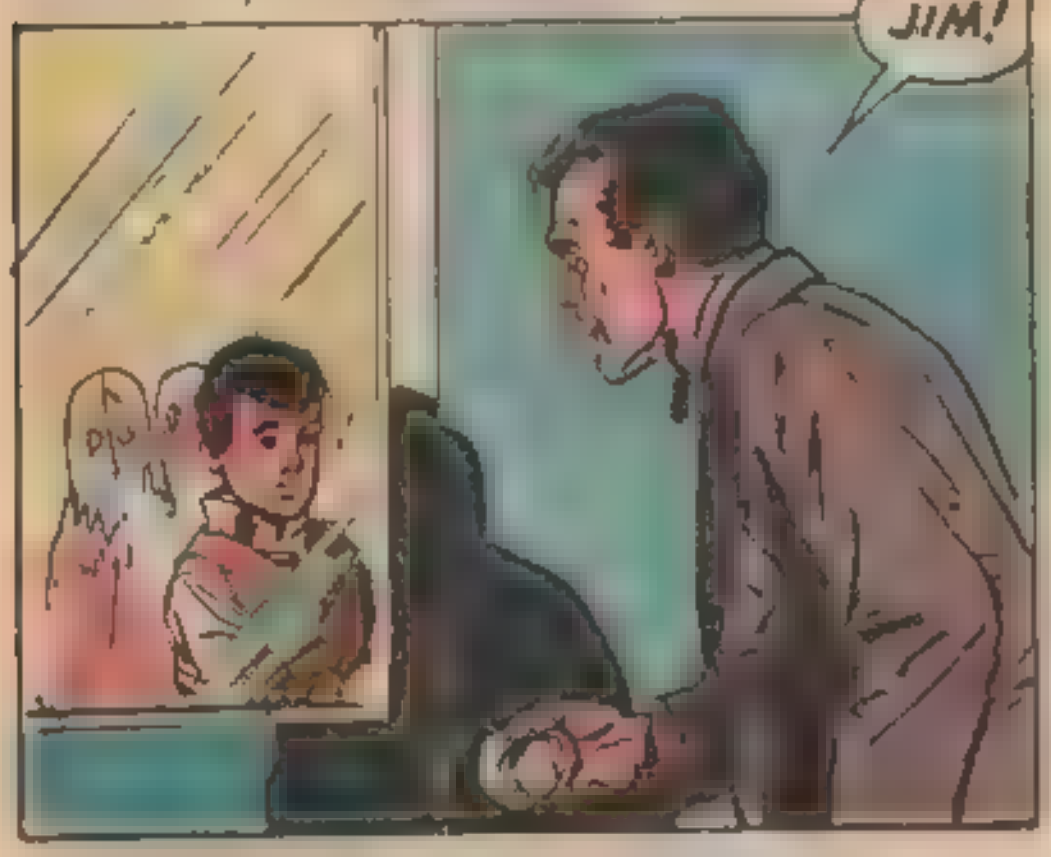
IT IS A **TRICK!** WE ARE IN A TEMPERATURE ROOM!

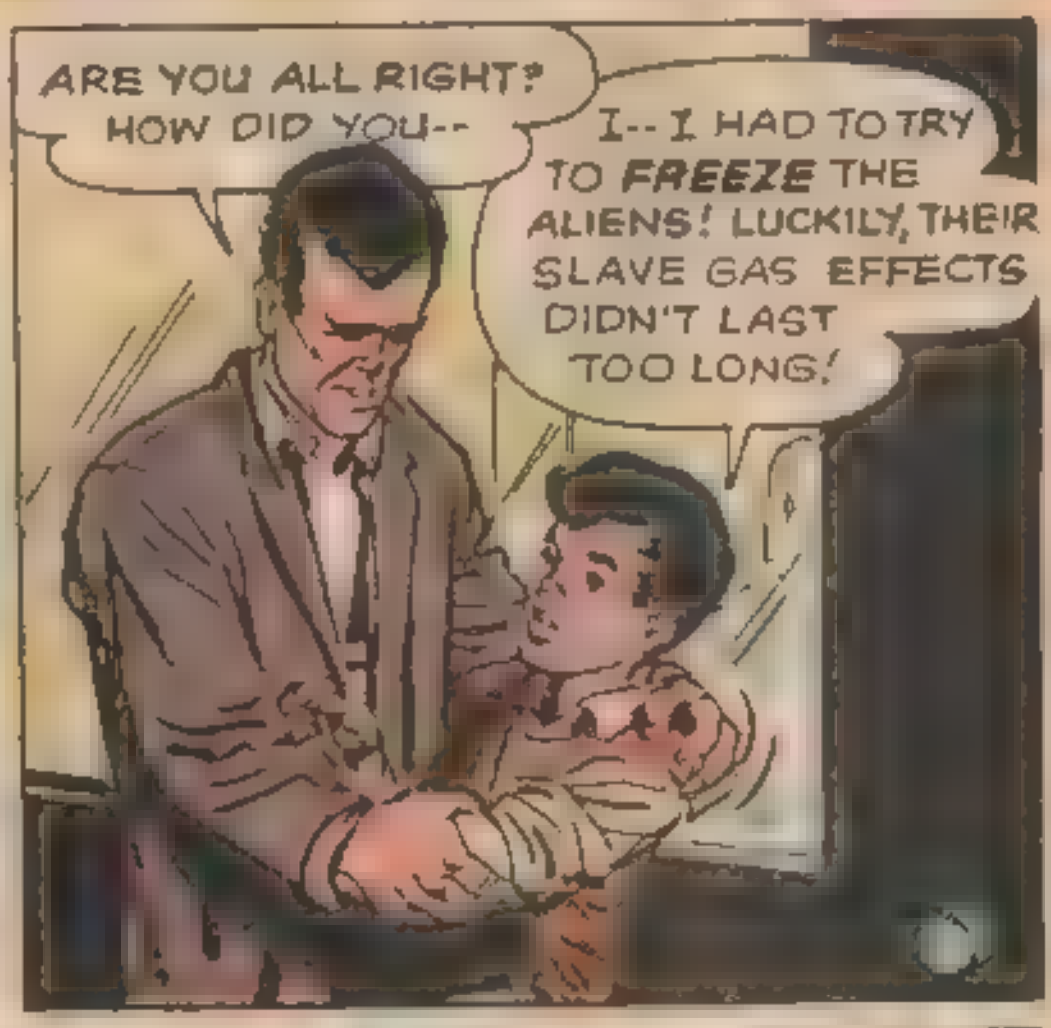
YOUR PAL SAID THAT **COLD** COULD HURT YOU! AND I'M GOING TO SEE JUST HOW RIGHT HE WAS!

FEEBLY, XERL REACHES OUT TO GRASP THE CONTROLS, BUT EVEN AS HE DOES, HIS HAND BECOMES STIFF, IMMOVABLE IN A FROZEN POSITION...

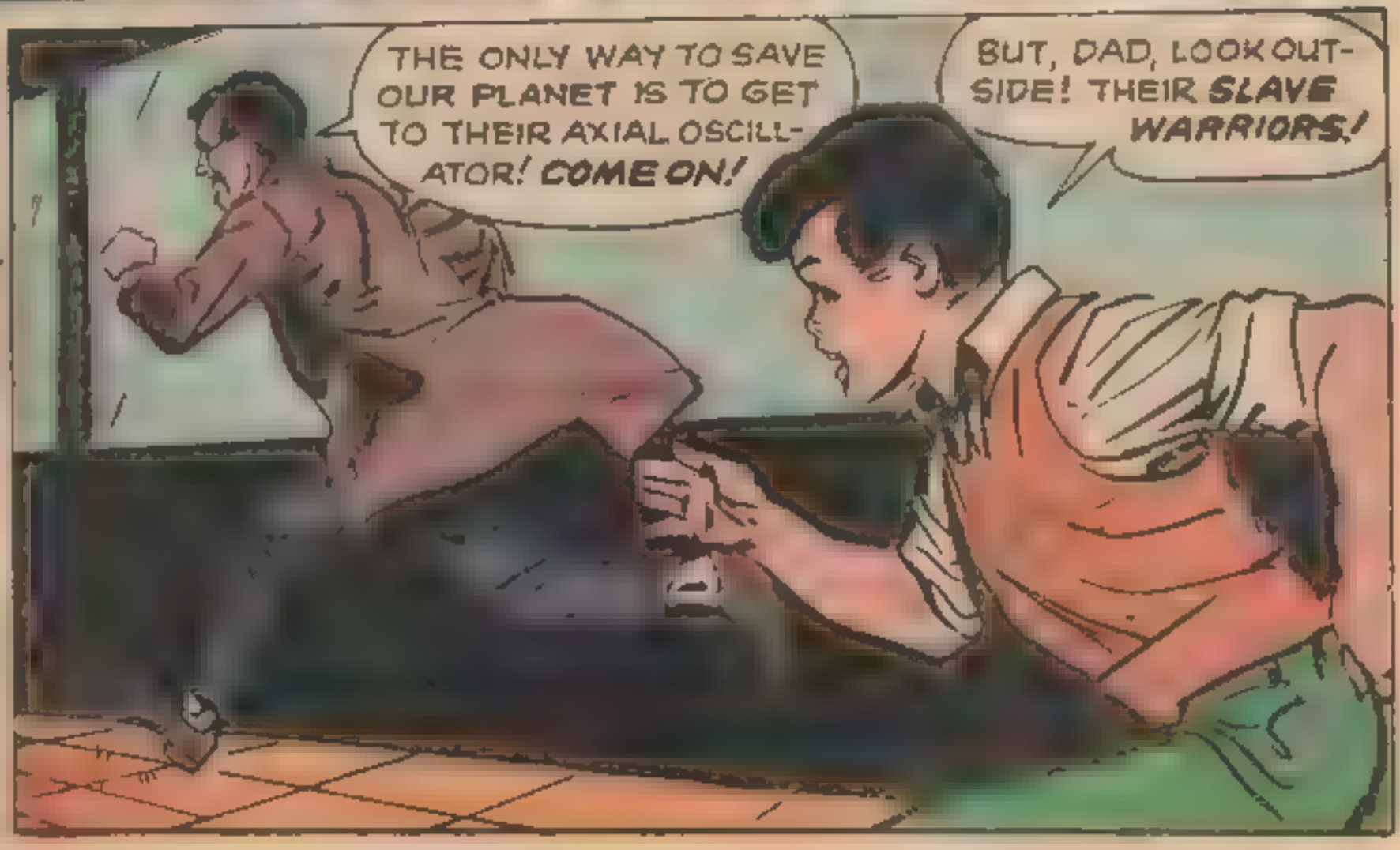


THEN, JIM PRESSES THE ALARM! AS THE WAILING SIGNAL SOUNDS THROUGH THE BUILDING, HIS FATHER RACES UP...





QUICKLY, THE DOOR TO THE EXPERIMENTAL ENVIRONMENT ROOM IS SHUT! THEN JIM HURRIEDLY TELLS HIS FATHER THE FANTASTIC EVENTS HE HAS SEEN.



YOU'RE RIGHT, JIM! THEY'LL PARALYZE US BEFORE WE CAN REACH THE SHIP! HEAD FOR THE LAB—I KNOW ONE WEAPON THAT *MIGHT* JUST WORK!

IMPROVISING WITH DESPERATE SPEED, PROFESSOR BURKE RIGS A FREEZING GAS PROJECTOR! THEN, THEY RETURN TO THE FRONT DOOR...

THINK IT CAN WORK?

WHATEVER THIS LIQUID-GAS TOUCHES WILL HAVE ITS TEMPERATURE DROPPED FORTY DEGREES *BELOW* FREEZING!

EMERGING FROM THE DOORWAY, PROFESSOR BURKE SQUIRTS THE LIQUID-GAS AT THE WAITING WARRIORS BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN RAISE THEIR RAY GUNS...

BULL'S EYE!

IT'D BETTER BE! IF EVEN ONE OF THEM ISN'T FROZEN AND CAN USE HIS WEAPON ON US--

INSTANTLY, ICICLES DRIP AND HANG FROM THE FROZEN, HOSTILE FIGURES...

LONG BEFORE THEY THAW, WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM!

BUT, DAD, YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH THE HATCH! HOW--

JIM, ***YOU*** WILL HAVE TO DESCRIBE THE CONTROL SYSTEM CLEARLY ENOUGH TO ME SO I CAN DIRECT OUR COUNTER-ACTION AND ***STOP*** THEIR INCREASING OUR AXIAL VARIATION!

SWALLOWING HARD AT THE SUDDEN RESPONSIBILITY THRUST UPON HIM, JIM BURKE STARTS DOWN THE HATCH...

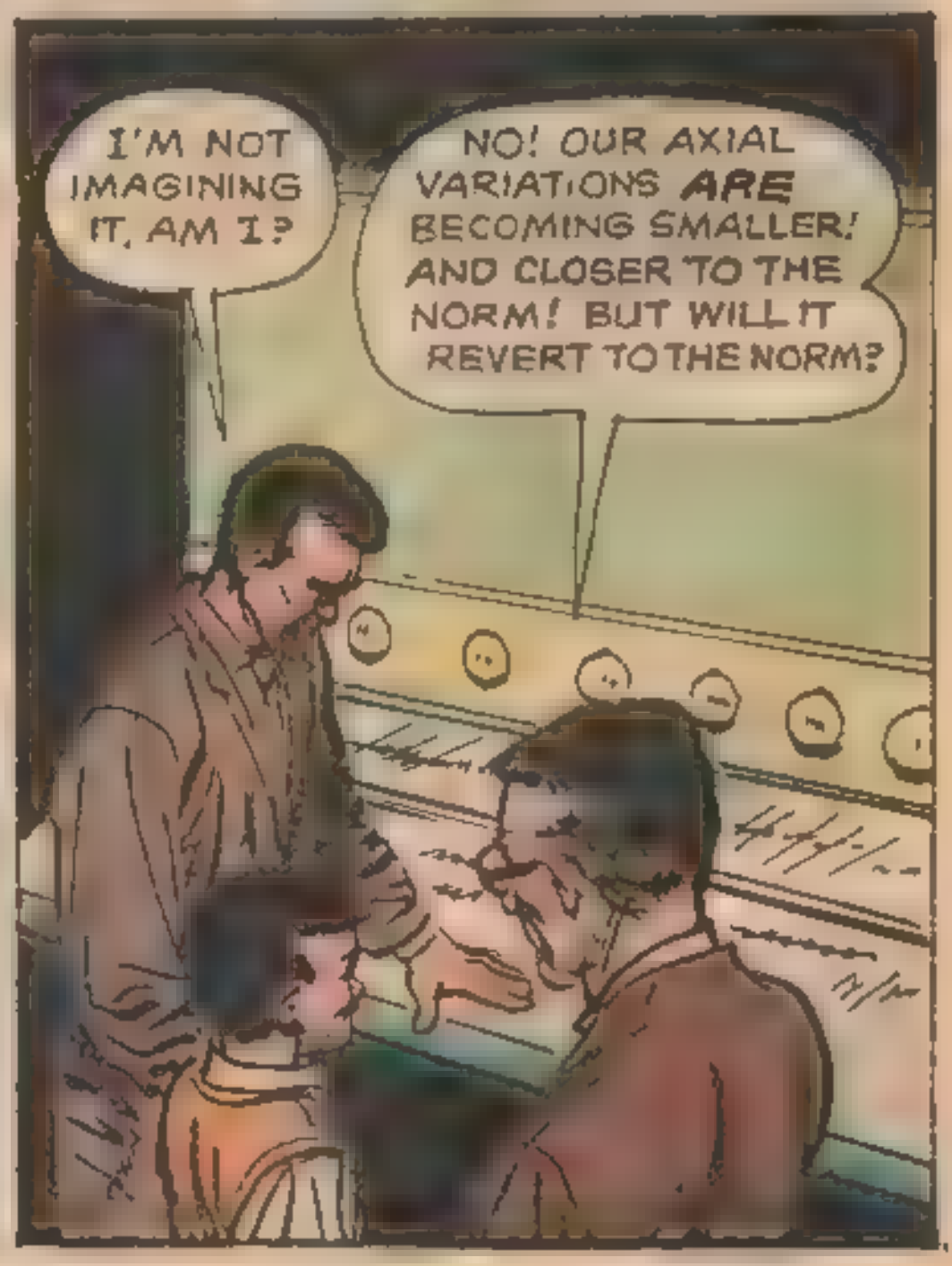
GOSH, I HOPE I CAN DO IT!

YOU MUST AND YOU ***WILL!***

ONCE INSIDE THE SHIP, JIM BURKE CALLS OFF THE VARIOUS TYPE DIALS AND READINGS ON THE UNFAMILIAR CONTROL PANEL...

CAREFULLY, JIM BURKE FOLLOWS HIS FATHER'S INSTRUCTIONS! BUT EACH TIME HE TOUCHES A CONTROL, HE IS FILLED WITH THE FRIGHTENING REALIZATION THAT A WORLD'S FATE IS AT HIS FINGERTIPS...

THEN, THEY RETURN TO THE BUILDING AND STUDY THE SENSITIVE TRACING NEEDLE OF THE SEISMOGRAPH...



FROM AROUND THE WORLD, REPORTS START FLASHING! THE SEA VOLCANOS ARE SINKING! THE TREMORS DIMINISH! THE SNOW STORM OVER FLORIDA SUBSIDES AND AT THE BASE...

LOOK AT THE MISSILE-- IT ISN'T QUIVERING ANY MORE! WE **HAVE** NEUTRALIZED THE AXIAL OSCILLATOR!

BUT WHAT ABOUT **THEM**?

AS THEY TURN BACK TO LOOK AT THE ALIENS, THEY DETECT THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT...

DAD! **THEY'RE THAWING!**

THEN I'D BETTER DOUSE THEM BEFORE THEY BLAST US!

AS PROFESSOR BURKE'S HANDS GRASP THE HOSE, THERE IS A FLASH FROM ONE ALIEN RAY GUN...

JIM, **GET DOWN!**

BZZZT!

WE'RE IN LUCK! HE HADN'T THAWED ENOUGH TO TAKE AIM! BUT NOW WE HAVE DEFEATED THEM, WE MUST GET RID OF THEM!

THE ALIENS ARE LOADED INTO THEIR TWO CRAFT! THEN, THE CRAFT ARE PLACED ON BOOSTER ROCKETS AND JIM BURKE IS GIVEN THE HONOR OF PRESSING THE BLAST-OFF BUTTON...

FOUR--THREE-TWO--ONE--

FIRE!

SKYWARD, THE ALIEN CRAFT ARE SHOT...

VROOM!

THEN, A SHORT WHILE LATER, THEY CHECK THEIR DEEP-SPACE RADARSCOPE...

YES, THEY HAVE STARTED UNDER THEIR OWN POWER NOW, JIM! AND BOTH CRAFT ARE HEADING **AWAY** FROM EARTH! BUT THIS SHOULD WARN US--THAT EVEN IN SPACE, THERE CAN BE CLEVER AND TREACHEROUS TROJAN HORSES!

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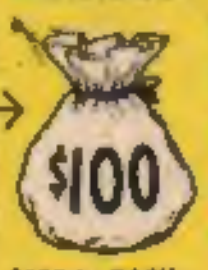

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